



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155
www.gbra.org

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GBRA and TAP Meet to Initiate Work Under Agreement

For more information

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COLUMBUS, Texas — Officials with the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and The Aransas Project (TAP) met last week to initiate work under a landmark whitepaper agreement to work on the future of water, habitat and endangered species within the Guadalupe River watershed. Among other things, both parties re-affirmed their commitment to the agreement.

The GBRA-TAP whitepaper agreement signed in February 2016, sets out a shared vision for the future of the watershed between two organizations that spent much of the last ten years in court against each other. The goal of the agreement is for the parties to find a path to provide adequate water supply for the future while ensuring effective stewardship of lands and waters within the watershed.

GBRA's new General Manager Kevin Patteson demonstrated his commitment to the work initiated by both organizations in February. "This whitepaper agreement offers a real chance for a new dynamic in water management in the Guadalupe River watershed," Patteson said. "It is a very positive sign for the future when groups such as GBRA and TAP, who have spent years in litigation in the past, join forces to move forward on issues such as water supply and land and water stewardship that consider both human needs and those of the species that depend on the watershed. As the new General Manager, I am committed to realizing the vision of the goals outlined in the whitepaper."

Ann Hamilton, a member of the TAP Board, echoed Patteson's sentiments, stating, "TAP is committed to finding a way to meet the needs of people and the environment. From the beginning, we have wanted to protect the whooping cranes at San Antonio Bay while meeting the needs of the basin. We are now underway to achieve that goal."

All parties agreed that there is much work to be done and that the efforts under the agreement will take substantial time and money. Ten topics are identified for future study under the agreement, including issues associated with water supply, creative concepts for managing and developing water, habitat conservation and preservation initiatives and endangered species investigations. Specific initiatives will be announced as they are more fully developed.

"We have a lot of work to do and it is good to get under way," said Jim Blackburn, a member of the TAP Board who helped negotiate the whitepaper agreement. "This will be a long-term effort that is going to require creativity and goodwill, but I feel comfortable that we can realize the huge upside potential of this agreement"

Patteson added, "This is not an easy or quick piece of work. We are all dedicated to rolling up our sleeves and getting to work."

GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties. GBRA provides services that include hydroelectric generation; water and wastewater treatment; municipal, industrial, and agricultural raw water supply; and recreational operations.

The Aransas Project, a Texas 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is an alliance of citizens, organizations, businesses, and municipalities who want responsible water management of the Guadalupe River Basin and bays that represents all interests throughout the basin. TAP supports responsible water management that is reasonable, sustainable and environmentally sound—all the way to the bay.



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